

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Date of Signature

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PCT/EP99/04972 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) in order to claim priority to the international application under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c). Since it is more than four months from the actual filing date of the application and more than sixteen months from the filing date of the international application, your Petitioners petition for the acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim under 35
5 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of the prior filed international application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3), your Petitioners are including with this Petition:

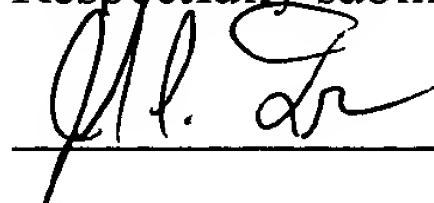
1) a check for \$1,280.00 to cover the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t);
and

2) a statement by the undersigned that the entire delay between the date the
10 claim was due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) and the date of this Petition was unintentional.

Should this Petition be granted, Petitioners respectfully petition the Commissioner to have the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment being concurrently filed with the present Petition entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3).

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Respectfully submitted,



John C. Freeman
Registration No. 34,483
Attorney for Petitioners

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BRINKS HOFER
GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4200
25 Dated: March 6, 2002

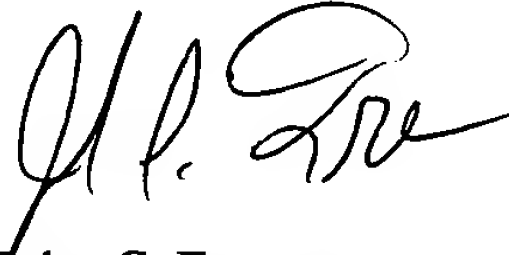
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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3)(ii)

5 I, John C. Freeman, state that the entire delay between the date the claim for the benefit of the
filing date of international application PCT/EP99/04972 was due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) and the
date of the filing of the claim was unintentional, wherein such filing of the claim is being made
concurrently with the filing of the present Statement.

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Date: March 6, 2002

John C. Freeman
Registration No. 34,483
Attorney for Petitioners

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